

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 9, 12 and 14-30 are under consideration. Claim 13 has been deleted. New claim 30 has been added.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, the dependency of claim 13 has been corrected as has been the pending claim recitation in the response.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

AUTHORIZATION

If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at ecr@gtlaw.com.

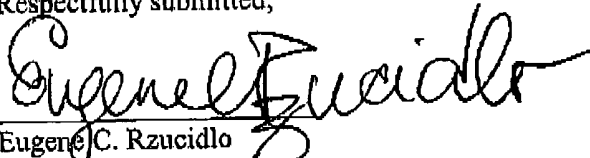
No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Dated: 01/13/04

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Eugene C. Rzucidlo
Registration No. 31,960
Customer Number: 32361